

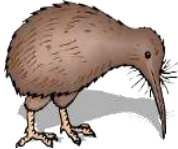


NORTHCROSS
INTERMEDIATE



GUIDELINES FOR HOSTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Kiwi Experience....



Coming to another country to study as a young student is a very daunting experience. For those students arriving without their parents it must be an even greater challenge. Many of our International Students arrive in New Zealand never having met the family with whom they will live with for the next few weeks/months and in some cases years. The initial barriers of language & culture plus the stress of missing family and friends can make things very difficult in the first few weeks. As

language and cultural differences become easier to understand and more familiar, things will improve and hopefully the homestay experience for your family and your student will be a memorable one.

If your family is new to the world of International Homestay you may find the following thoughts from some of our previous International Students interesting...

"When I came to the Northcross Intermediate School at first time I was too scared. I didn't play, no I couldn't play, because I didn't have a friend. How could I make a friend?!? So I thought "how can I make a friend, I'm too scared, I don't know English, what should I do? Oh Men. But after a few days I can make friends and I could play, whatever I could, so now I think we don't have to worry about it. A lot of International Students can make friend or whatever".

"When I came to New Zealand I did many things. I played with my homestay brother and sister. We played handball and computer game, sometimes we played by Playstation 2. It is so fun I made many friends already. My English ability was not good but now my English ability is good. Sometimes I had bad happen. I broke my wrist playing soccer in astro grass, I slipped over. It was very hurt so I took plaster on my wrist but now I'm OK. Now I can speak English more better and understand nearly all of my work. I have more confident. New Zealand is very good. I like NZ and Northcross..."

HOMESTAY PAYMENTS:

As per prior arrangement with Northcross Intermediate School. One week in advance. As of 01 January 2023 the rate is \$340.00/per week.

This will increase to **\$370.00** per week as of **01 January 2024**.

ARRIVAL:

Your student will be met by a school representative or Designated First Language Guardian and brought to your home.

It is a nice idea to have a small gift for them on their arrival, we will endeavor to send you a small 'Kiwiana' type gift for your student to place in their bedroom on arrival to help them feel welcome.

BEDROOM:

Students are entitled to their own room although many students like to share with homestay brother or sister (must be same age and gender). This will be on a case by case basis and discussed prior with the student and their family and the homestay family.

- Should have a wardrobe and chest of drawers
- Study desk, chair and adequate lighting or a designated study area such as the kitchen or family room
- A bed and all linen is to be supplied by the homestay
- Clean & easily accessed bathroom facilities
- A heater available if required (many Asian students feel the cold)
- A TV is usually **not** appropriate

MEALS:

Students are entitled to 3 meals per day plus snacks. This is to include a packed lunch for school.

- Please have green tea, chopsticks and rice available.
- If you take your student out for lunch or dinner, it should be treated as a meal at home and paid for by you. If your student chooses to go out for lunch or dinner with their own friends, it is your student who pays.

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Personal expenses (hair-cuts, clothing etc.)
- Entertainment costs
- Holiday costs
- Medical/dental expenses (insurance is compulsory)
- International, national and mobile calls made from the family's line
- Any breakages or damage in the homestay (not normal wear and tear)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES HOSTING OVERSEAS STUDENTS:

Hosting an overseas student can be a rewarding experience for you and your family but there are several important things to remember. Your student is away from home, often lonely and faced with customs that are very different from their own.

They will need the love and care that you would like your own child to receive in the same situation. Fitting in takes time and understanding. Our cultural expectations should not be forced upon the student. Communication is the key.

GETTING ALONG TOGETHER:

It is customary in New Zealand to expect people staying in your home to help with such things as drying the dishes or laying the table etc. Your student may have come from a culture with servants and many students particularly males, will never have done household chores at all. Please be patient but students are expected to keep their own rooms tidy, make their own bed and help with other small chores as per your own children.

COMMUNICATION:

Your student is here to learn English, please try to talk to them as much as you can. Try to speak slowly and clearly, not loudly, or using 'pidgin' English. Use short sentences and try to avoid negative questions (e.g., 'you haven't made your bed yet have you?'). You can always write it down if you feel you haven't been understood.

Please try to remember that it is very tiring for your student to try and communicate in English all day. If they seem distant and switched off please don't worry (although if this behaviour persists please let us know). There are sometimes problems with the word YES. Most students are reluctant to say NO. This is regarded as rude in some countries so YES can quite often mean NO. It makes it very difficult to get the true meaning, but slow, uncertain speech or a MAYBE will often indicate NO. If all else fails write it down.

ACTIVITIES AND OUTINGS:

Your student is responsible for their own admission fees and travel expenses.

Taking your student on outings that do not cost any money; beach, picnics, scenic walks, visits to Auckland City etc. are very much appreciated. It's great if the students can go back to their home country having experienced Auckland City and its environs. Depending on how long your student is staying with you a trip to Sky Tower, Auckland Zoo, the Museum will be much appreciated.

EVERYDAY TASKS:

MAKING AND USING THE BED:

Please show them how to make their own beds.

Please provide plenty of blankets as many students feel it is very cold here.

HEATING

Many homes in Asia are centrally heated so students may find it really cold here.

BEDTIME:

It is common for Asian students to stay up much later than their Kiwi counterparts. They take their study very seriously and are often surprised when their host family goes to bed. The guidelines should be the same as those of your own children of a similar age. Please talk to them about this, but they must fit in with the rules of your home. Please set out guidelines for phone use. They can often be found late at night talking to friends and family back home so please set rules around this.

INTERNET USE:

Time spent on the internet for gaming, watching movies etc. should be decided between the students' parents the student and you. Internet packages vary from household to household. 'Acceptable' computer time will also vary from family to family. A student's homework must take priority over games and we will endeavour to let you know what the rules were surrounding computer time in their home country as it's a global issue with parents! At the end of the day; your house your rules.

BATHING AND SHOWERING:

New Zealand style bathing and showering may also be new. Explain that they must wash in the bath or shower, not on the floor beside them. Our bathrooms do not have drain holes as their bathrooms often do. Explain they must conserve hot water carefully due to the limited quantity and expense. They are used to continuous gas- heated hot water systems. We suggest 5-10 minutes. Some students are used to SLOSHING water around in large quantities as many bathrooms outside of NZ have large drains in the middle of the room to accommodate this. Please explain the need to wipe up excess water afterwards.

FEMINE HYGIENE:

Female students may have to be discreetly shown how to dispose of their sanitary napkins (not all use tampons). You may even have to be the one who guides the student through this change. Please remember you can contact our school nurse who has had training in talking students through these issues.

LAUNDRY;

Please discuss laundry routine with your student. A small laundry basket in the room is often very handy.

ILLNESS:

In many Asian countries it is very rude to blow your nose in public. In New Zealand it is offensive to sniff, but this is what your student has been brought up to do. This is a cultural difference; please try to

understand. Have some tissues available in the room and around the house. A cold or flu will often put them to bed for days, whereas we tend to soldier on!

Please use the Northcross absentee form, you can find this on the schools website, if your student is to be away, for any reason. If your student is absent for two or more days the school may require a medical certificate. Students must have medical insurance. This will have been checked by the school.

COURTESY;

Students must tell the host parents where they are going and what time they will be home if/when leaving the house. They must also leave a contact number. The host family is to make arrangements for students if they are to be away from home for a meal or overnight. **No student is to be left in the house unsupervised under the age of 14 years.**

CULTURE SHOCK:

'Culture Shock' is the name given to the phenomenon which occurs when people move from a culture in which they understand and interpret the values, patterns of behaviour, gestures etc. into a culture in which they do not know and understand these things. Our students are far from home, so warmth, sympathy and concern are appreciated. Odd behaviour can sometimes be a reaction to the stress of culture shock. It is extremely unlikely that a student would be knowingly and deliberately rude.

MONEY:

Discourage your students from taking large sums of cash to school. This applies to cell phones, iPods and other electronic equipment-they are not allowed to be brought to school. We will also ask the organisers to explain this to their students.

MEAL TIMES:

The students are expected to abide by your usual family meal routine. Students are not expecting to eat the same food as they do at home, so please don't make major changes. However, see the 'meal tips' which follow.

SOME MEAL TIPS:

All students from Asia appreciate frequent servings of rice; Chili and soya sauce on the table are appreciated.

Most students are used to drinking with their meals, so some juice or water on the table please will be appreciated. The table manners of your student will differ from those of your family. Your student may make a lot of noise when they eat or drink. It is important to understand that there is no right or wrong way; it is just a matter of different customs. An Asian grocery store will often delight your student with treats from home. There a quite a number on the North Shore.

SCHOOL HEALTH CENTRE:

If your student is unwell and needs to be taken home from school you must make arrangements as you would for your own child. If you cannot pick them up due to work commitments then a nominated family member or friend must be able to care for them until you get home. They are NOT to be left at school in the Health Centre.

GIVING NOTICE:

We totally understand that a homestay arrangement may not work out for a number of reasons (from both sides). If, in the event that you wish to terminate your arrangement with the school (or if the student wishes to move on for whatever reason) then a week's notice is required either side wherever possible.

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS:

Director of International Students

Sharon Hines

Direct line: 477 0342

After Hours: 021 252 7465

Email: sharonh@northcross.school.nz

Accommodation Manager

Anna Lewthwaite

After Hours 027 253 4473

Email: annal@northcross.school.nz

Northcross Intermediate School – 477 0167

EMERGENCY AND ACCIDENT PROCEDURES FOR HOMESTAYS

Emergencies

An emergency is a situation that requires immediate action. In a situation that requires immediate action, there is not usually time to look up procedures or refer to written information.

What to do:

In an emergency act appropriately; E.g. remove the student from danger, apply first aid, and call an ambulance.

Then contact Sharon Hines or Anna Lewthwaite

Once again thank you for opening up your home and family to an International Student from Northcross Intermediate School. We hope that your homestay experience will be a rewarding one for both your family and your International Student.

Remember we are here to support you so please keep in contact with us.

